like IRDP, TRYSEM, DWCRA etc. SGSY is a holistic programme covering all aspects of self employment such as organisation of the poor into self-help groups, training, credit, technology, infrastructure and marketing.

The proposal for enactment of a comprehensive central legislation for agricultural workers is under consideration of the Government.

Changes in Labour Laws

4949. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are of the view that there is need to accelerate changes in labour laws;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken in this regard;

(c) whether he had urged trade unions to adopt a positive attitude towards economic reforms, as stated in the "Hindustan Times" dated 15th April, 2000; and

(d) if so, response with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) Review/updation of Labour Laws is a continuous process and amendments/fresh legislations are made depending on the results of the review. The Second National Commission on Labour set up by the Government vide resolution issued on 15.10.1999 would comprehensively review labour laws to ensure both consistency of labour laws with the general changes taking place in the economic policy and also to provide for greater welfare of the working class. The 36th Session of the Indian Labour Conference was held on 14-15th April, 2000. While inaugurating the Conference, the Prime Minister stated the obvious when he said that the trade union movement today is standing at crossroads in history. While emphasizing his Government's commitment to broadening and accelerating the scope of internal reforms to increase the prosperity of all Indians, he stated that the government is following a cautious policy towards globalisation so that it can protect and promote national interests including the interests of peasants and workers. The Prime Minister, therefore, reiterated the position of the Government that labour is an integral part of economic reforms and the Government never believed that there could be any inherent antagonism between labour, capital, management, society and the State. The Ministry of Labour welcomed the suggestion of Prime Minister to trade unions to adopt a positive and supportive

attitude towards the programme of economic reforms in India. The Conference also noted the suggestion made by the Prime Minister to create a new policy and legislative climate conducive to new investment in all sectors of the economy. The social partners in the Conference reiterated their commitment to maintain a national consensus on the issues relating to labour standards and trade so as to guide the government in the WTO and ILO negotiations. Many of the central trade unions demanded that they should be consulted while government takes decision on disinvestments and privatization in public sector units. They also demanded that workers dues and wages would be the first priority on any sick unit referred to BIFR and identified for liquidation. The social partners, especially the trade unions were concerned about the implications of the revised Exim Policy and requested the government to reconsider the decision to put about 700 items on Open General Licence.

Increase in Pension Amount

4950. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the pension amount payable to the Central Government pensioners due to increasing inflationary condition in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(d) whether Government propose to restore the commuted amount of pension in respect of those pensioners who have completed more than 10 years period or crossed 65 years of age till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The pension amount payable by Central Government is compensated against price increase twice in a year by way of dearness relief at par with dearness allowance being extended to serving employees.

(d) No, Sir.